Indiana Crop & Weather Report

United States Dept of Agriculture

Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service | 1435 Win Hentschel Blvd. Suite B105 | West Lafayette, IN 47906-4145 (765) 494-8371

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CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 4

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

THIS REPORT IS THE FIRST CROP WEATHER REPORT FOR THE 2004 GROWING SEASON. A SERIES OF WEEKLY CROP PROGRESS REPORTS WILL BE PUBLISHED EACH MONDAY AT 3:00 P.M. EST THROUGHOUT THE CROP SEASON. These reports will cover planting and harvesting activities, crop development, weather data and timely crop management information provided by Purdue University experts. For the earliest possible access, look for these reports on the internet shortly after the 3:00 P.M. release time. Our home page address is located at the bottom of this publication. Follow the links to view the text and PDF files.

FIELD CROPS REPORT

There were 1.5 days suitable for fieldwork. Rain early in the week halted most field activities around the state. Some fieldwork was accomplished late in the week on the lighter type well drained soils. Strong steady winds also helped dry out soils during the weekend. A few scattered fields of corn have been planted, but most farmers are making final preparations to equipment and waiting for warmer weather and drier soil conditions to begin 2004 planting of corn and soybeans. Seeding of oats has taken place in some areas. Growth and development of hay and pastures have been slow.

Twelve percent of the winter wheat acreage is jointed compared with 5 percent last year and 10 percent for the 5-year average. Winter wheat condition is rated 85 percent good to excellent compared with 80 percent last year at this time. Wheat growth was slow earlier, but has greened up rapidly during the last two weeks and growing.

Major activities during the week were moving grain to market, tillage of soils, applying fertilizer and spreading lime, spraying chemicals, preparing equipment, hauling manure and taking care of livestock.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE REPORT

Pasture condition is rated 6 percent excellent, 58 percent good, 29 percent fair, 5 percent poor and 2 percent very poor. Pastures are slowly improving. Livestock are in mostly good condition. Hay supplies are rated 3 percent very short, 9 percent short, 81 percent adequate and 7 percent surplus. Lambing and calving are active.

CROP PROGRESS TABLE

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg
	Percent			
Winter Wheat Jointed	12	NA	5	10

CROP CONDITION TABLE

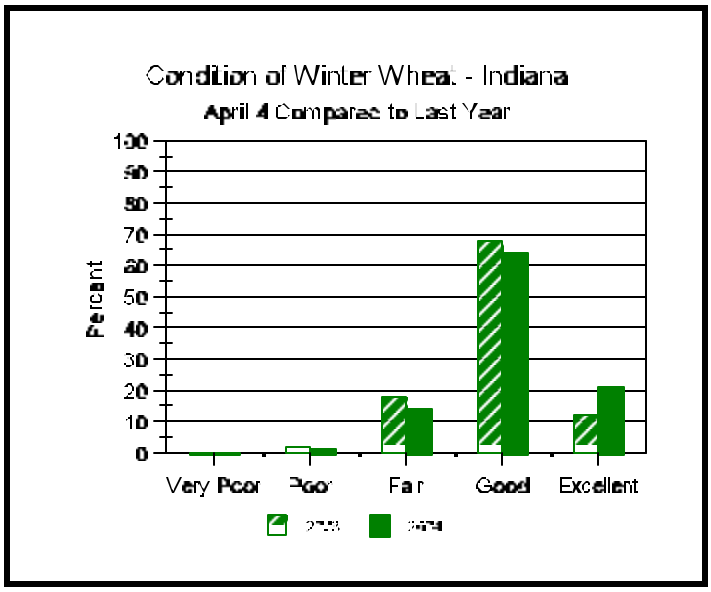
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excel-lent
	Percent				
Pasture	2	5	29	58	6
Winter Wheat 2004	0	1	14	64	21
Winter Wheat 2003	0	2	18	68	12

SOIL MOISTURE & DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK TABLE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	Percent		
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	NA	3
Short	1	NA	8
Adequate	54	NA	66
Surplus	45	NA	23
Subsoil			
Very Short	2	NA	9
Short	3	NA	13
Adequate	68	NA	67
Surplus	27	NA	11
Days Suitable	1.5	NA	3.7

CONTACT INFORMATION

--Greg Preston, State Statistician
--Bud Bever, Agricultural Statistician
E-Mail Address: nass-in@nass.usda.gov
http://www.nass.usda.gov/in/index.htm



Other Agricultural Comments And News

Soybean Seed Size Alert

- Soybean seed available for planting the 2004 crop will be 10 to 20% smaller.
- The quantity of soybean seed this year is very good.
- Drills and planters **MUST** be re-calibrated to adjust for the smaller seed.

Sub-samples of seed taken from plots at the Agronomy Center for Research and Education at harvest in 2003 indicated that the harvested seed was 12 to 20% smaller than the seed utilized to plant the plots. The smaller seed was most likely the result of late season heat and moisture stresses on the 2003 soybean crop. The smallness of the seed does not appear to have reduced germination and should have no negative effect on the vigor of seed available to plant the 2004 crop.

However, seed available to farmers this year will most likely be 10 to 20% smaller than last year. This will vary depending on the location of the seed production and the maturity group. Seed produced in southern Indiana may be near normal in size while seed from northern Indiana will be smaller than normal. Group II soybeans had reached the R-5.5 growth stage when the moisture stress was most severe, resulting in much smaller seed than normal. The Group III soybeans were at the R-5.0 stage of growth during the most stressful period resulting in significant seed abortion but less reduction in seed size. The smaller seed means that a farmer will need to purchase 10 to 20% fewer units of seed in 2004 to plant the same land area as 2003. Producers need to obtain seed counts from their seed supplier prior to finalizing the number of units needed in 2004.

In addition to adjusting seed purchases, producers MUST recalibrate drills and planters to account for the reduced seed size. Always check the seed tag for the percent germination and the number of seeds per pound before calibrating drills and planters. When calibrating drills, collect seed from ALL of the rows since the seeding rate varies widely from one row to another. Failure to recalibrate will result in excessive seeding rates, additional expense for unneeded seed, (just when seed costs are already much higher than those in 2003), and

(Continued on Page 4)

Weather Information Table

Week ending Sunday April 4, 2004

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation				
								April 1, 2004 thru April 4, 2004				
	Air Temperature				Precip.		Avg 4 in Soil	Precipitation			GDD Base 50°F	
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days	Temp	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN
Northwest (1)												
Chalmers_5W	77	31	48	+2	0.80	2	49	0.00	-0.44	0	0	-8
Valparaiso_AP_I	76	32	46	+2	0.71	2		0.00	-0.50	0	0	-4
Wanatah	76	29	45	+3	0.70	2	50	0.00	-0.48	0	0	-4
Wheatfield	75	32	47	+5	1.48	5		0.71	+0.23	2	0	-4
Winamac	77	31	48	+4	0.07	2		0.00	-0.47	0	0	-4
North Central(2)												
Plymouth	77	32	48	+3	0.19	2		0.00	-0.48	0	0	-4
South_Bend	77	31	47	+4	0.17	3		0.01	-0.51	1	0	-4
Young_America	77	32	49	+5	0.80	2		0.00	-0.44	0	0	-4
Northeast (3)												
Columbia_City	74	32	49	+6	0.12	3		0.01	-0.47	1	0	-3
Fort_Wayne	74	31	49	+6	0.23	3		0.01	-0.43	1	0	-4
West Central (4)												
Greencastle	78	33	48	-1	0.73	3		0.03	-0.45	1	0	-8
Perrysville	76	29	48	+3	0.48	3	52	0.00	-0.50	0	0	-8
Spencer_Ag	77	31	48	+2	1.12	4		0.17	-0.35	1	0	-8
Terre_Haute_AFB	74	31	48	-1	0.72	3		0.08	-0.40	1	0	-9
W_Lafayette_6NW	77	29	48	+4	0.74	2	51	0.00	-0.45	0	0	-4
Central (5)												
Eagle_Creek_AP	77	34	49	+2	1.23	3		0.09	-0.41	1	0	-8
Greenfield	77	34	48	+3	1.56	4		0.08	-0.44	2	0	-5
Indianapolis_AP	80	33	49	+2	1.04	3		0.10	-0.40	1	0	-8
Indianapolis_SE	77	33	48	+2	1.12	3		0.08	-0.40	1	0	-8
Tipton_Ag	75	33	49	+5	0.87	3		0.02	-0.48	1	0	-4
East Central (6)												
Farmland	76	34	48	+5	0.80	5		0.12	-0.34	2	0	-4
New_Castle	75	31	47	+3	0.43	3		0.04	-0.48	1	0	-4
Southwest (7)												
Evansville	81	34	51	-2	0.15	3		0.03	-0.53	1	1	-17
Freelandville	77	32	49	+1	0.33	3		0.08	-0.44	1	0	-12
Shoals	81	34	50	+2	0.92	4		0.15	-0.41	1	1	-11
Stendal	79	34	51	+0	0.73	4		0.13	-0.47	1	1	-13
Vincennes_5NE	79	34	50	+2	0.87	4	51	0.05	-0.47	1	0	-12
South Central(8)												
Leavenworth	79	35	48	-2	0.91	4		0.11	-0.53	1	0	-12
Oolitic	78	33	49	+2	0.91	4	49	0.22	-0.32	1	0	-8
Tell_City	80	40	52	+2	0.86	4		0.08	-0.56	1	5	-11
Southeast (9)												
Brookville	80	35	50	+4	0.84	5		0.19	-0.33	3	0	-5
Milan_5NE	78	34	49	+3	1.20	6		0.22	-0.30	3	0	-5
Scottsburg	80	32	49	-2	0.76	4		0.23	-0.33	1	0	-12

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).
GDD = Growing Degree Days.
Precipitation (Rainfall or melted snow/ice) in inches.
Precipitation Days = Days with precip of .01 inch or more.
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

The above weather information is provided by AWIS, Inc.
For detailed ag weather forecasts and data visit the AWIS home page at
www.awis.com or call toll free at 1-888-798-9955.

plant stands that are too thick. Thick stands will result in plants that are likely to be taller with smaller stems and subject to lodging. If lodging occurs while the plants are green and growing there will be an overall reduction in the total leaf canopy and some plants will die, resulting in a yield reduction. On the other hand, if lodging occurs after physiological maturity, the soybeans will mature in a near normal fashion but field losses will occur at harvest.

Purdue recommends seeding rates of 200,000, 165,000 and 130,000 seeds per acre for 7.5, 15 and 30 inch rows respectively. This recommendation is based on seed with a germination of at least 90% and that 90% of those seeds will emerge and become established as normal plants. The resultant stand should be 165,000, 135,000 and 105,000 plants per acre respectively for 7.5, 15 and 30 inch rows.

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